

ed for by predation by raptors such as the Osprey and Marsh harriers seen frequenting the area.

We found many footprints of otters on the island which may also account for the remnants of terns. Otters have been sighted off and on at Bhigwan and at times get caught in the fishermen's nets, when they are unfortunately killed by them.

With the water still receding, a problem is sure to occur unless the area is cordoned off. Within a short while both the islands will be linked to the shoreline of the lake. This will lead to an influx of cattle that will be attracted

to the only patch of green in the area. Inevitably the nests will be trampled upon and destroyed. Village dogs will get access to the area and finish off eggs and chicks. Human intervention in the form of schoolboys, herds-men, fishermen etc. will do the rest.

The access to the islands must thus be guarded in some way to prevent shortening of the present nesting season.

The disturbance should be kept to a minimum so that the birds will habitually set up a colony here year after year. We hope that the proposed bird sanctuary to be established at Bhigwan will speedily solve this problem.

'SAKEN' VALANTINA SOCIETY,
NORTH MAIN ROAD,
KOREGAON PARK,
PUNE 411 001,
MAHARASHTRA,
April 29, 1986.

E. K. BHARUCHA
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14. SIGHT RECORD OF STARLING *STERNUS VULGARIS* IN ANDHRA PRADESH

According to Ali & Ripley (1983) the winter distribution of Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* is in Pakistan and North India east to Bangladesh, south to Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. Vagrants and stragglers are liable to be met in far-flung localities; thus two were recorded from Madras (Whistler, quoted by Ali & Ripley 1972). On 10.xii.1985, at 1715 hours outside the 800-hectare grassland plot maintained for the Great Indian Bustard, near

Rollapadu village (15° 52' N and 78° 18' E), Nandikutkooor taluka, Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh, a flock of eight Starlings was seen along with 8-10 Rosy Pastors (*Sturnus roseus*). Soon the two species flew off in different directions. The Rosy Pastors settled in another field but the Starlings were lost sight of. Though the Rosy Pastors were seen throughout the period of my stay at Rollapadu (10 days), Starlings were not seen again.

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May 24, 1986.

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